



Slideshow: INL's unique archaeological history

Narration: (*INL facilities photo*) Idaho National Laboratory is famous as the cradle of commercial nuclear power (*Analytical chemistry*) and ongoing scientific research. The Department of Energy site (*INL location graphic*) in eastern Idaho occupies nearly 900 square miles of high desert country (*various INL archeological photos*). What many are not aware of, however, is the rich historical legacy and archaeological treasure chest that also exist within the site limits (*interns loading bus*).

A bus-full of INL interns from all over the country had the unique opportunity to take a guided tour (*inside bus*) with professional archaeologists Diana Lowrey and Clayton Marler (*view of farms*). Driving through the area, it might appear that there's not much out there (*facilities in the distance*). However, as the interns discovered, the land INL sits on has a lot to do with humans' past, present and future (*Lowrey on bus*).

Lowrey: So they had these large animals that they were hunting, and (*bones*) there were other animals that were around (*girl handling bone*), such as ancient horse. (*Lowrey explaining at rest stop*)

Narration: (*Lowrey explaining to seated group photo*) That's Diana Lowrey, who goes by "Dino." Here's her colleague, Clayton Marler, explaining how ancient inhabitants hunted (*both tour guides explain to seated group*).

Marler: One of the main things that (*Marler explaining*) they used to make their weapons and tools out of is obsidian (*interns passing obsidian*).

Narration: On a small lava-rock outcropping surrounded by a sea of sagebrush, junipers and spotty grass (*interns passing obsidian*), Clayton and Dino explain how this area was once a sort of "Sportsman's Warehouse" of the ancient world (*Marler explaining to seated group*). The black volcanic glass known as obsidian, which is native to the area, is relatively easy to shape and provided the ideal raw material for making essential tips for hunting.

Lowrey: In fact, that obsidian, and Clayton might have mentioned this, is of such fine quality (*spear tip*) that that obsidian is found as far east as the Mississippi River Valley. It was traded.

Narrator: These tips (*atlatl photo*) evolved from spearheads, to tips for a type of spear launcher called an atlatl.

Lowrey: (*atlatl spear tip*) And then, the smaller projectile points that you see (*arrowheads*) are associated with, and some people call them bird points, the very small ones are associated with the bow and arrow. And the bow and arrow was not introduced into this area until about 1,300 to 1,400 years ago.

Narration: (*girls hunting for obsidian chips*) Along the banks of a small stream, chips of obsidian from arrowhead making are still plentiful (*finding chips*).

Lowrey: It's really an art form. You can use stone to basically knap off (*examining tips by river*) big fragments and then use a smaller deer antler to do the fine-tuning.

Narration: (*little river big desert*) Over the millennia, the area became drier and drier. When Europeans finally showed up, they found an area that might have seemed as inhospitable as they were persistent (*scattered bricks at abandoned homestead*). From the start of the 20th century, at least five different attempts to permanently settle failed.

Marler: If you look at the ground, it's definitely (*rocky soil*) Pleistocene flood gravels we're walking on, incredibly rocky, never would have made very good farmland (*tin artifacts*). That, coupled with the fact that they didn't get near the water that they needed, led to the fact that they abandoned this place not too long after they built it.

Narration: The desert is littered with the remnants of their (*purple glass bottleneck*) attempts to settle: glass bottles from the dawn of the 20th century turned purple with age (*house foundation*), house foundations (*lawn mower*), even parts from an old lawn mower hide in the sagebrush and grasses.

Narration: (*Hitler and Mussolini photo*) Then World War II changed everything. The Navy needed someplace to perform maintenance on the guns from big warships.

Marler: (*Pearl Harbor photo*) At the time, they were afraid that there would be an invasion on the West Coast, so they wanted an inland city.

Narration: (*INL location graphic*) This bit of Idaho desert seemed just right and the government fenced the land off from traditional development (*VJ-Day newspaper photo*). The war ended with the introduction of the atom bomb.

Narration: But research of all things nuclear had only begun. Soon the Navy's desert site became (*Nautilus core*) home to a host of nuclear firsts: (*Nautilus launch*) the first nuclear submarine's prototype core, the first usable amount of electricity (*first four nuclear-lit bulbs*) produced from nuclear power was at (*EBR-I core installed*) Experimental Breeder Reactor-I and was followed (*EBR-I intern group*) by more than 50 other first-of-their-kind-reactors.

Narration: (*desert road*) The desert may appear deceptively bleak and open when just driving by. But a look at its past, its (*INL facilities in the distance*) present and its future provide a scene rich in detail and diversity.

Lowrey: (*Lowrey points out flowers*) This is a buckwheat.

Intern: Oh, look at that!

Lowrey: It's pretty because of that Foxtail grass. And there's, with that Purple Aster, and there's a Globe Mallow.

Intern: What's the Globe Mallow?

Lowrey: The orange, the orange is the Globe Mallow...

Narration: For INL, (*INL logo video*) I'm Brett Stone.